

# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



## Central mudminnow

*Umbra limi*

Common name • Central mudminnow

Scientific name • *Umbra limi*

State status • Endangered

→ Erosion and sediment controls should be strictly implemented, maintained and monitored for the duration of the project.

### Ecology

Central mudminnows historically occurred in lakes and ponds in central and eastern North America with the northern limit of their distribution in southern Manitoba, Canada. In Missouri, mudminnows have only been recorded in areas along the Mississippi River. They are habitat specialists because they occupy still waters with abundant submerged vegetation and thick layers of organic material or muck. These conditions are generally found in ponds, marshes and sloughs. Mudminnows are very tolerant of low oxygen and highly acidic waters. Central mudminnows are generalized feeders and will eat different organisms depending on what is available. They typically prey on small snails, crustaceans and insect larvae. Spawning occurs between April and June. Adult central mudminnows reach a length of 2-4 inches.

### Reason for Decline

Throughout much of their range, central mudminnows are fairly common. In Missouri, destruction of wetlands is eliminating habitat for this species. Conversion of wetlands for urban and rural development along the Mississippi River has destroyed marshes, sloughs and ponds this species historically inhabited.

### Specific Recommendations

Protection of wetlands is an essential goal, not only for species like the central mudminnow, but because wetlands provide important environmental services. Because Missouri's populations are disjunct from populations to the north, predation from introduced fish species could easily eliminate the central mudminnow. Actions should be taken to ensure flood waters do not inundate existing mudminnow habitat and introduce predatory fishes.

→ Avoid draining or reducing wetland habitat throughout the central mudminnows range.

→ Project activities should not occur below water levels between April 1 and June 15.

→ Practices that will increase siltation or erosion should be avoided.

### General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers and Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Wetlands.

### Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers, streams and wetlands, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation  
Policy Coordination Section  
P.O. Box 180  
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Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176  
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
700 Federal Building  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896  
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division  
901 North 5th Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Field Office  
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201  
Telephone: 573/876-1911

### Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.